

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed February 9, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and, in view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

I. Summary of Claims

Claims 35, 44, 50, 52-53, 55-57, and 59-69 are currently pending in the application. Claims 35, 50, 52, and 57 are amended, claims 36-43, 45-49, 51, 54, and 58 are cancelled; and claims 59-68 are added:

The following claim rejections were submitted by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action:

- Claims 35, 37, 40, 45-47, 50, and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 2,677,906 to Reed; and
- Claims 38, 44, 48-49, 53, and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed.

The Office Action also indicates that claims 55-56 are allowed and that claims 36, 39, 41-43, 51, 54, and 58 would be allowable if rewritten in independent claim format.

II. Discussion of Amendments

As noted above, claims 36, 39, 41-43, 51, 54, and 58 would be allowable if rewritten in independent claim format. Each of the independent claims, with the exception of independent claim 55, incorporate matter that the Examiner indicated as being allowable. More particularly, the independent claims incorporate matter as follows:

- Independent claim 35 substantially incorporates the recitations of independent claim 35 (prior to this Amendment) and dependent claim 36;
- Independent claim 50 substantially incorporates the recitations of independent claim 50 (prior to this Amendment) and dependent claim 51;
- Independent claim 52 substantially incorporates the recitations of independent claim 52 (prior to this Amendment) and dependent claim 54;
- Independent claim 57 substantially incorporates the recitations of independent claim 57 (prior to this Amendment) and dependent claim 58;

- Independent claim 59 substantially incorporates the recitations of independent claim 35 (prior to this Amendment) and dependent claim 39;
- Independent claim 62 substantially incorporates the recitations of independent claim 35 (prior to this Amendment) and dependent claims 40-41;
- Independent claim 63 substantially incorporates the recitations of independent claim 35 (prior to this Amendment) and dependent claims 40 and 42; and
- Independent claim 64 substantially incorporates the recitations of independent claim 35 (prior to this Amendment) and dependent claim 43.

The Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that independent claims 35, 50, 52, 57, 59, and 62-64 are allowable. In addition, the Applicants submit that dependent claims 44, 53, 56, 60-61, and 65-69 are allowable as they are based upon allowable independent claims.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in a condition for allowance. The Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the rejections be withdrawn and that this application now be allowed.

This Amendment is being timely filed by facsimile transmission on March 30, 2005. Should additional fees or an extension of time be deemed necessary for consideration of this Amendment, such fees or extension are hereby requested and the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account number 19-0733 for the payment of the requisite fee. If anything further is desirable to place the application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned representative at (503) 425-6800.

Respectfully submitted,

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